

Please amend the application as follows:

In The Claims¹

Please amend claims 1, 14, 15, 32, 34 and 42-44 as shown:

1. (Thrice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a (poly)peptide having a function of the human K⁺ ion *eag* channel, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleic acid sequence comprising a nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4;

(b) the nucleic acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 13 or SEQ ID NO:14;

(c) a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes to the complementary strand of a nucleic acid molecule of (a) or (b) in 4XSSC at 65°C or in 4XSSC at 42°C in 50% formamide; and

(d) a nucleic acid molecule being degenerate to the sequence of the nucleic acid molecule of (c).

14. (Thrice Amended) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or a vector comprising said nucleic acid molecule, wherein the composition additionally comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

¹ An "Appendix of Amendments" is enclosed at Exhibit A showing the amendments to the claims. In the Appendix, the added portions are underscored and the deleted portions are bracketed.

D2

~~11~~ ~~15~~. (Twice Amended) A diagnostic composition for the diagnosis of cancer, comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or a vector comprising said nucleic acid molecule.

D3

~~12~~ ~~32~~. (Thrice Amended) A kit comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or a vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule.

D4

~~13~~ ~~34~~. (Amended) The kit according to claim ~~32~~ ¹² comprising the nucleic acid molecule and the vector.

D5

~~21~~ ~~42~~. (Amended) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims ~~35-37~~ ^{14 16} or a vector comprising said nucleic acid molecule, wherein the composition additionally comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

~~43~~ ²². (Amended) A diagnostic composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims ~~35-37~~ ^{14 16} or a vector comprising said nucleic acid molecule.

~~44~~ ²³. (Amended) A kit comprising the nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims ~~35-37~~ ^{14 16} or a vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule.

Claims 1, 3-10, 14, 15, 32 and 34-44 are pending. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the removed or cancelled subject matter in applications claiming benefit herefrom.

The amendments add no new matter; their entry is requested.